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State Dept. review completed

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, SREF
SUBJECT: SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON CRIME SITUATION IN
SOUTH FLORIDA

1. THIS CABLE TRANSMITS INFO REGARDING THE RECENTLY
FORMED PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON CRIME IN SOUTH FLORIDA.
ARA POSTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THIS EFFORT SINCE
IT IS CLOSELY RELATED TO INTERDICTION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT
LATIN AMERICA.

2. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT WAS RELEASED
JANUARY 28, 1982.

BEGIN TEXT: DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE ONCE TRANQUIL
AREA OF SOUTH FLORIDA HAS BECOME A LANDING AREA FOR
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES, AND THE NATION'S
MAJOR TERMINAL FOR THE SMUGGLING OF ILLEGAL DRUGS INTO
THE UNITED STATES.

MANY OF THOSE WHO FLED TO OUR LAND CAME OUT OF DESPERATION
-- A DESPERATION INFLICTED UPON THEM BY A DICTATOR WHO
TOLERATES NO FREEDOMS NOR ALLOWS HUMAN RIGHTS. THE
OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THESE REFUGEES ARE FREEDOM
LOVING, PEACEFUL PEOPLE. MOST HAVE RESETTLED IN NEW

HOMES AND IN NEW COMMUNITIES IN ORDER TO BUILD A BETTER
LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES. IN THE
YEARS TO COME THEY WILL TAKE THEIR PLACE ALONGSIDE
THE MILLIONS OF OTHERS WHO CAME BEFORE THEM IN MAKING
OURS A GREATER LAND. UNFORTUNATELY, A VERY SMALL
PERCENTAGE PURSUED A LIFE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE THAT
VICTIMIZED THEIR NEIGHBORS IN THEIR HOMELAND AND EVEN
TODAY CONTINUE THIS INTOLERABLE BEHAVIOR IN SOUTH
FLORIDA. COMBINED WITH THE RELATED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES
OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, THE NEARLY TWO MILLION PEOPLE
OF SOUTH FLORIDA ARE UNFAIRLY BURDENED FINANCIALLY
IN ADDITION TO BEING DENIED THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT
TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHOUT FEAR AND INTIMIDATION.

MASSIVE IMMIGRATION, RAMPANT CRIME, AND EPIDEMIC DRUG
SMUGGLING HAVE CREATED A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THEREFORE,
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO FILL IN TEMPORARILY AND
DO WHAT IT CAN TO REDUCE AND, HOPEFULLY, ELIMINATE
THESE PROBLEMS.

THE EFFORT TO AMELIORATE THIS PROBLEM WILL REQUIRE

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THE FULL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF MANY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES. TO COORDINATE THIS EFFORT, I AM TODAY ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL TASK FORCE, HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, TO ANALYZE THE PROBLEMS AND DETERMINE WHAT STEPS WE MUST TAKE DURING THE PERIOD OF AGGRAVATED CRIME INCIDENCE. THIS TASK FORCE WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE ONE WE ESTABLISHED FOR THE CITY OF ATLANTA. DURING THE PERIOD OF MAXIMUM NEED, IT WILL COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS REGARDING OUR COURSE OF ACTION. SECRETARIES HAIG, WEINBERGER, REGAN, LEWIS, ATTORNEY GENERAL SMITH AND PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELLOR EDWIN MEESE WILL SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE. A WORKING GROUP WILL BE HEADED BY ADMIRAL DANTEL MURPHY, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF STAFF, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE PRINCIPALS. - - - - -

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA IS UNIQUE. WITH HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF MILES OF COASTLINE, AND AS THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT OF OUR COUNTRY LOCATED IN THE CARIBBEAN, IT HAS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES THAT NO OTHER COMMUNITY COULD EVER ANTICIPATE.

THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE BEGINS TODAY. WE SEEK TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF THIS REGION IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN EARLY RESTORATION OF THEIR COMMUNITY AND THEIR LIVES TO THE NORMALCY THEY DESERVE. END TEXT.

3. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 5, 1982.

BEGIN TEXT: VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TODAY ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO WILL FORM A WORKING GROUP TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED SOUTH FLORIDA SPECIAL TASK FORCE. THE TASK FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED TO ANALYZE THE PROBLEMS OF CRIME, DRUG SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND TO DECIDE WHAT STEPS THE ADMINISTRATION CAN TAKE IN ASSISTING LOCAL OFFICIALS IN REDUCING THOSE PROBLEMS. THE WORKING GROUP, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY ADMIRAL DANIEL J. MURPHY, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF STAFF, MET FOR THE FIRST TIME YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. IT DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF DRUGS, CRIME, SMUGGLING, THE USE OF FIRE ARMS IN THE AREA AND THE INFLUX OF UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS.

IT ALSO REVIEWED PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED TO THE ADMINISTRATION BY US SENATOR PAULA HAWKINS (R-FLA.) AND THE GREATER MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE WORKING GROUP IS IN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSING THE CRIME AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES WITH PARTIES FROM THE MIAMI AREA IN ADDITION TO LAYING OUT COURSES OF ACTION AND DEVELOPING PLANS TO BE ENACTED BY THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE.

THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT VIEW THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH FLORIDA WITH A SERIOUS CONCERN AND ARE LOOKING TO THE TASK FORCE AND WORKING GROUP TO COME UP WITH REMEDIES THAT WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE PROBLEMS ON BOTH A SHORT- AND LONG-TERM BASIS.

THE SOUTH FLORIDA TASK FORCE IS OF CABINET-LEVEL AND INCLUDES SECRETARIES HAIG, LEWIS, REGAN, WEINBERGER, ATTORNEY GENERAL SMITH AND PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR, EDWIN MEESE.

A LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP IS ATTACHED.

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ATTACHMENT:

ADMIRAL DANIEL J. MURPHY
CHIEF OF STAFF, VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH
CHAIRMAN

JOHN M. WALKER, JR.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENFORCEMENT AND OPERATIONS
(REPRESENTING SECRETARY REGAN)

DOMINICK DICARLO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE BUREAU OF INTER-
NATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS
(REPRESENTING SECRETARY HAIG)

JAMES N. JULIANA
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MANPOWER, RESERVE
AFFAIRS AND LOGISTICS
(REPRESENTING SECRETARY WEINBERGER)

RUDOLPH W. GUILIANI
ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL
(REPRESENTING ATTORNEY GENERAL SMITH)

JEFFREY HARRIS
DEPUTY ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ARTHUR E. TEELE, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION
(REPRESENTING SECRETARY LEWIS)

MICHAEL J. FENELLO
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
(REPRESENTING THE FAA)

VADM ROBERT H. SCARBOROUGH
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
(REPRESENTING THE US COAST GUARD)

T. KENNETH CRIBB, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

CARLTON E. TURNER
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR FOR DRUG POLICY

END TEXT.

4. THE DEPARTMENT WILL SEND FURTHER MATERIAL ON THE
SOUTH FLORIDA TASK FORCE TO POSTS VIA AIR POUCH ASAP.
HAIG

END OF MESSAGE

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